

## REMARKS


Claims 21-31 are currently pending in the application and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103. In the advisory action dated August 13, 2004, the Examiner refused entrance of Applicants' proposed amendments to Claim 21 in the after final response of July 20, 2004 as the recitation of a deletion or a truncation of an OPG protein allegedly raised new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. The request for continued examination herein also includes new amendments to Claim 21. Claim 21 now recites R<sub>2</sub> as a "protein which differs from OPG by deletion of one or more amino acids from residues 186-401 as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), or truncation of the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2) to residues 22-X wherein X is any residue from position 185 to 293 inclusive ...". Other amendments to Claim 21 are intended to more clearly and distinctly delineate the subject matter which is being claimed. It is maintained that the amendments are fully supported by the specification and do not introduce new matter. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

For the reasons previously set forth in the after final response of July 20, 2004, it is believed that the rejections of Claims 21-31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO97/23614 (Boyle et al.) and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over WO97/23614 in view of WO98/28427 (Mann et al.) may be withdrawn.

## CONCLUSION

Claims 21-31 are in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 17, 2005

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